

RETAIL PRICES - DECEMBER QUARTER, 1947.

ALL ITEMS - "C" SERIES.

Index numbers (with the weighted average of the six Capital Cities in 1923-1927 as base of 1000) of retail prices of all items ("C" Series) for the December quarter, 1947, with figures for September quarter, 1947, for comparison (in brackets), were:- Brisbane 1163 (1136), Toowoomba 1175 (1153), Rockhampton 1163 (1142), Townsville 1201 (1181), Bundaberg 1132 (1111), and Warwick 1164 (1139). Increases over the September quarter occurred in all the towns. During the twelve months ended December, 1947, the increase in Brisbane - increases in other towns were very similar - was 4.8 per cent., compared with 3.4 per cent. during the preceding twelve months, following practically no change during the period from September, 1945 to December, 1945, after a "Price Ceiling" had been imposed in April, 1943. In the first four years of the war to September, 1943, annual increases in the index were 4.6, 6.2, 8.5, and 2.9 per cent. respectively.

The figures show the following percentage increases when compared with those for the periods shown.

Retail Price Index, "C" Series, Percentage Increase in December Quarter, 1947.

City.		From Year Ended June, 1939.	From December Quarter, 1946.	From September Quarter, 1947.
		%	%	%
Brisbane ..	..	34.8	4.8	2.4
Toowoomba ..	..	38.1	4.4	1.9
Rockhampton ..	..	35.1	4.7	1.8
Townsville ..	..	31.7	3.9	1.7
Bundaberg ..	..	34.6	3.9	1.9
Warwick ..	..	41.6	5.1	2.2

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

Retail Prices, Percentage Increase in December Quarter, 1947.

City.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From Sept. Quarter, 1947.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From Sept. Quarter, 1947.	From Year Ended June, 1939.	From Sept. Quarter, 1947.
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Brisbane ..	27.6	3.7	95.3	3.5	21.7	0.3
Toowoomba ..	37.2	2.5	93.5	3.6	20.9	-0.1
Rockhampton ..	25.8	2.7	92.1	2.9	22.8	0.0
Townsville ..	22.8	2.4	93.1	3.0	20.5	0.3
Bundaberg ..	25.5	2.3	88.9	3.3	18.8	0.2
Warwick ..	32.0	2.7	98.1	3.9	23.3	-1.0

FOOD AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

Index numbers for food and rent only ("B" Series) for December quarter, 1947 (with base 1000 in 1923-1927 for the six State Capitals) were:- Brisbane, 1001; Toowoomba, 1016; Rockhampton, 989; Townsville, 1051; Bundaberg, 954; and Warwick, 973.

From September quarter, 1947, to December quarter, 1947, the "B" Series index showed increases in Brisbane, 2.5%; Toowoomba, 1.6%; Rockhampton, 1.9%; Townsville, 1.6%; Bundaberg, 1.7%; and Warwick, 2.0%.

Increases were noted mainly in meat, milk, butter, bread, sugar, soap, and bacon.

The rent index increased in Warwick, 0.5%; and remained stationary in all other towns.

Compared with December quarter, 1946, the "B" Series index increased in Brisbane, 6.3%; Toowoomba, 5.3%; Rockhampton, 6.3%; Townsville, 5.0%; Bundaberg, 5.2%; and Warwick, 6.1%.

The rent index showed no movement in Townsville and Bundaberg, but increased were recorded in Brisbane, 0.1%; Toowoomba, 0.3%; Rockhampton, 0.3%; and Warwick, 1.2%.

#### CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Clothing and footwear prices rose steadily during the early years of the recent war, until they were about 75 per cent. above their pre-war level by June, 1943. The "Price Ceiling" policy was introduced early in 1943, and the clothing and footwear index declined slightly from June quarter 1943 to September quarter 1945, when it again commenced to rise. Since that date, clothing and footwear prices in Brisbane have risen by 14 per cent., including 4.3 per cent. in the twelve months ended December, 1947, in spite of a decline in the March quarter, 1947, due to a reduction of Sales Tax on most clothing items. The rise of 3.5 per cent., in the December quarter 1947 was the largest since March quarter, 1943. Similar rises occurred in the other Cities.

Miscellaneous items were nearly 20 per cent. above their pre-war price level by June, 1943, and have remained fairly steady since that date, with the exception of an increase of about 1 per cent. in the March quarter, 1947, due to an increase in the price of tobacco and cigarettes.

#### COMPARISON OF COSTS IN QUEENSLAND CITIES.

The following table shows the amounts, for the various Queensland cities, required in December quarter, 1947, to purchase the quantity of goods or housing which would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

##### Amounts Required in Various Cities to Purchase Equivalent of £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.			Food and Groceries.			Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).			Clothing and Footwear.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brisbane ..	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	0.
Toowoomba ..	1.	0.	2.	1.	0.	5.	1.	0.	0.	19.	10.	
Rockhampton	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	7.	18.	1.		1.	0.	1.
Townsville ..	1.	0.	8.	1.	1.	6.	1.	0.	1.	1.	0.	0.
Bundaberg ..		19.	6.	1.	0.	9.	15.	9.		10.	7.	
Warwick ..	1.	0.	0.	1.	0.	5.	17.	5.		1.	0.	2.

#### BASIC WAGE RATES IN STATE CAPITAL CITIES.

The table on page 3 shows the Retail Price Index Number ("C" Series) for each of the six Capital Cities for the December quarter of 1947 and the prevailing basic wage rates for males prescribed by Commonwealth and State Industrial tribunals respectively. The fourth column shows the amounts which would be required in Brisbane to provide a standard of living equivalent to that provided by each State Basic Wage in its own Capital City. The differences between these amounts and the State Basic Wage for Brisbane, which are given in the last column, show the margin of advantage in real purchasing power provided by the Queensland Basic Wage over each of the other State Basic Wages.



## Retail Prices and Basic Wage Rates - December Quarter, 1947.

Capital City.	Retail Price Index ("C" Series) December, 1947.	Commonwealth Court Basic Wage for Males.	State Court Basic Wage for Males.	Equivalent at Brisbane Prices of each State Basic Wage.	Margin of Purchasing Power in Favour of Brisbane State Basic Wage.
	Index.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.
Brisbane ..	1163	5. 7. 0.	5. 11. 0.	5. 11. 0.	- -
Sydney ..	1242	5. 14. 0.	5. 14. 0.	5. 6. 9.	4. 3.
Melbourne ..	1227	5. 13. 0.	5. 13. 0.	5. 7. 1.	3. 11.
Adelaide ..	1198	5. 8. 0.	5. 6. 0.	5. 2. 11.	8. 1.
Perth ..	1189	5. 7. 0.	5. 12. 9.	5. 10. 3.	0. 9.
Hobart ..	1216	5. 10. 0.	5. 10. 0.	5. 5. 2.	5. 10.

The rise in the "C" Series Index number during the quarter ended December, 1947, caused a "cost of living" addition of 4s.0d. to the Commonwealth Basic Wage in Melbourne, 3s.0d. in Hobart, 2s.0d. in Sydney, Brisbane, and Adelaide, and 1s.0d. in Perth. The State Basic Wage in Brisbane, and in all other parts of Queensland, was increased by 2s.0d. The State Basic Wage in Perth was increased by 2s.0d. In Sydney, where the State Basic Wage follows the Commonwealth rate, the increase was 2s.0d., while in Melbourne and Hobart, where no State Basic Wage is declared, State awards largely follow the Commonwealth Basic Wage rates, which increased by 4s.0d. and 3s.0d. respectively in those Cities. The State Basic Wage in Adelaide has not changed to date.

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BRISBANE.

11th February, 1948.

## RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.  
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals.)

CITY.	Year Ended Decr., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Decr., 1947.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				December, 1946.	March, 1947.	June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.	December, 1947.
Brisbane ..	917	863	1137	1110	1123	1125	1136	1163
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1152	1125	1139	1141	1153	1175
Rockhampton	903	861	1140	1111	1126	1129	1142	1163
Townsville ..	1023	912	1181	1156	1172	1169	1181	1201
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1115	1090	1107	1108	1111	1132
Weighted Average								
Five Towns (a)	915	864	1140	1114	1127	1129	1140	1165
Warwick ..	914	822	1138	1108	1123	1125	1139	1164

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) INDEX - "B" SERIES.  
(Base = 1000 in 1923-1927 in Six State Capitals.)

CITY.	Year Ended Decr., 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended Decr., 1947.	QUARTERS ENDED -				
				December, 1946.	March, 1947.	June, 1947.	Sept., 1947.	December, 1947.
Brisbane ..	901	852	978	942	968	966	977	1001
Toowoomba ..	833	821	1001	965	992	994	1000	1016
Rockhampton	858	837	971	930	959	964	971	989
Townsville ..	1047	916	1036	1001	1029	1028	1034	1051
Bundaberg	(b)	799	942	907	937	937	938	954
Weighted Average								
Five Towns (a)	892	851	982	945	972	971	981	1003
Warwick ..	841	768	956	917	948	947	954	973

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES, BRISBANE.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -		Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF -	
		Sept., 1947.	Decr., 1947.			Sept., 1947.	Decr., 1947.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	6.00	6.50	Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	24.00	28.00
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.23	4.27	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.75
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	33.00	33.00	Beef -			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.93	4.44	Sirloin Roast 1 lb.	8.73	13.00	14.00
Sago .. 1 lb.	3.00	17.44	17.25	Steak Rump 1 lb.	11.34	17.50	19.00
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	13.32	13.32	Steak Chuck 1 lb.	5.83	8.00	9.00
Cats - Flaked 1 lb.	3.57	4.60	4.60	Rolled Brisket 1 lb.	5.48	8.00	8.50
Paisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	14.75	14.69	Mutton -			
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	10.41	10.41	Leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	11.50	11.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	3.91	2.50	Loin Chops 1 lb.	7.78	11.50	11.50
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	7.80	8.46	Pork -			
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.91	23.41	Leg .. 1 lb.	11.40	15.00	15.86
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.23	16.23	Chops .. 1 lb.	11.48	18.00	19.36